

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 4** – 4th May 2026

## Press freedom at lowest level in 25 years

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-4.html>

### Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-4.html>

Press freedom is at a 25-year low according to the organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF). This group creates an annual report on how free the media is worldwide. It said press freedom was "problematic" or worse in three quarters of the 180 nations it looked at. In over half of the world, conditions were "difficult" to "very serious". This was a third in 2013. The RSF said conditions were "good" in seven countries. These were all in Europe.

The RSF report says there is growing political pressure on the press. It said there was an "alarming" worsening in the conditions for journalists in many countries. The report stated that there was a "systematic policy" of attacks on journalists in the USA. It also said that in Russia, laws designed to fight terrorism and extremism were used to limit press freedom. Sixty-seven journalists were killed worldwide in 2025.

Sources: <https://www.dw.com/en/world-press-freedom-hits-new-low-as-authoritarianism-rises/a-76948348>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2026/apr/30/press-freedom-world-index-lowest-level-25-years>  
<https://rsf.org/en/2025-deadly-year-journalists-where-hate-and-impunity-lead>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. This group creates an annual | a. third in 2013   |
| 2. how free the media           | b. report          |
| 3. three                        | c. in Europe       |
| 4. In over half                 | d. is worldwide    |
| 5. conditions were difficult to | e. of the world    |
| 6. This was a                   | f. seven countries |
| 7. conditions were "good" in    | g. quarters        |
| 8. These were all               | h. very serious    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. growing political               | a. press freedom     |
| 2. an "alarming" worsening in the  | b. pressure          |
| 3. journalists                     | c. fight             |
| 4. there was a "systematic policy" | d. conditions        |
| 5. laws designed to                | e. were killed       |
| 6. terrorism                       | f. of attacks        |
| 7. used to limit                   | g. and extremism     |
| 8. Sixty-seven journalists         | h. in many countries |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-4.html>

Press freedom is at a 25-year (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF). This group (2) \_\_\_\_\_ report on how free the media is worldwide. It said press freedom was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in three quarters of the 180 nations it looked at. In (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the world, conditions were "difficult" to "very serious". This was (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 2013. The RSF said conditions were "good" in seven countries. These (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Europe.

The RSF report says there is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on the press. It said there was an "alarming" (8) \_\_\_\_\_ conditions for journalists in many countries. The report stated that there was (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of attacks on journalists in the USA. It also said that in Russia, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ fight terrorism and (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to limit press freedom. Sixty-seven journalists (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2025.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-4.html>

Press freedom is at a 25-year low according to the organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF). This group creates an annual report on how free the media is worldwide. It said press freedom was "problematic" or worse in three quarters of the 180 nations it looked at. In over half of the world, conditions were "difficult" to "very serious". This was a third in 2013. The RSF said conditions were "good" in seven countries. These were all in Europe. The RSF report says there is growing political pressure on the press. It said there was an "alarming" worsening in the conditions for journalists in many countries. The report stated that there was a "systematic policy" of attacks on journalists in the USA. It also said that in Russia, laws designed to fight terrorism and extremism were used to limit press freedom. Sixty-seven journalists were killed worldwide in 2025.

# PRESS FREEDOM SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260504-press-freedom-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about press freedom in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

*Press freedom at lowest level in 25 years – 4th May 2026*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

